

Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AF-10 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 /140 W

----- 039087

O R 271010Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO AMEMBASSY FREETOWN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9083

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 12566

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VS, SL

SUBJECT: GVN-SL RELATIONS

REF: A) FREETOWN 1825 (NOTAL); B) SAIGON 12120; C) STATE 187969;
D) FREETOWN 1570

1. WE APPRECIATED RECEIVING REF A, (WHICH CROSSED REF B) IN WHICH EMBASSY FREETOWN OFFERED TO SERVE AS A CHANNEL FOR GVN MESSAGE TO GOSL. WE CONSULTED WITH MFA, AND WERE INFORMED SEPTEMBER 26 THAT INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN SENT TO GVN AMBASSADOR DANG NGOC TRAN IN MONROVIA CALLING ON HIM TO MAKE A VISIT TO SIERRA LEONE AND STATING THAT, IF NECESSARY, HE COULD REQUEST THE ASSISTANCE OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSIES IN MONROVIA AND FREETOWN TO ARRANGE THE VISIT.

2. ALTHOUGH DEPARTMENT IN REF C EXPRESSED SOME RESERVATIONS ABOUT OUR SETTING UP A VISIT TO FREETOWN, THIS PROPOSED ACTION APPEARS TO US TO LIE WITHIN THE PARAMETERS OF THAT MESSAGE, AND SEEMS TO BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY WE CAN HELP, AND WE HOPE EMBASSIES MONROVIA AND FREETOWN WILL BE ABLE TO ASSIST AMBASSADOR TRAN IF CALLED UPON.

3. REF A GIVES IMPRESSION THAT GVN DIPLOMACY HAS NOT BEEN ACTIVE
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ON ITS OWN BEHALF. WE WOULD POINT OUT THAT PAST TRAFFIC ON THIS

MATTER SHOWS GVN REPEATEDLY TRIED TO CONTACT GOSL THROUGH ITS EMBASSIES IN LONDON AND MONROVIA, AND IT WAS ONLY AFTER FAILURE OF THESE EFFORTS THAT GVN TURNED TO US FOR ASSISTANCE. PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF REF A THERE WAS NO "OPENING" TO WHICH GVN COULD RESPOND, AS STATED PARA 2 OF REF A, BECAUSE REF D REFERRED QUESTION OF TRANSMITTING MESSAGES BETWEEN GVN AND GOSL TO DEPARTMENT, AND REF C PROVIDED DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS FOR TRANSMITTAL TO GOSL. THUS UNTIL RECEIPT OF REF A WE HAD NO INDICATION OF EMBASSY FREETOWN'S WILLINGNESS TO SERVE AS A CHANNEL WHICH WOULD PUT US IN A POSITION TO SUGGEST TO MFA THAT IT COMMUNICATE WITH GOSL IN THIS MANNER.

4. SUGGEST FREETOWN REPEAT REF A TO MONROVIA.
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Message Attributes

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Errors: N/A
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